#13981794 97 ID:88079768 HD 170 .C46 1987 no.1

and the winner is...

The Center Scene

Congratulations to Bill Griffith for submitting the winning entry to name the SC Newsletter. He received a $50 savings bond for his creativity. Watch for the February issue when the new masthead will have been designed showcasing Bill's idea. We received 22 suggestions. Thanks to all of you who participated.

BLM SERVICE CENTER JANUARY 1987

The Underground

The work at the Service Center is much deeper than many realize. There is another level of BLM that is often unrecognized or even unknown. That level is the underground of BLM, more commonly known as the basement of Building 50.

In this unique environment the subterranean workers of the Branch of Cadastral Survey Development's Equipment Cache and the Branch of Micrographics encounter situations unlike those of their "higher level" peers. The windowless work area provides no opportunity to observe Colorado's rapidly changing weather. It is, therefore, not unusual to emerge expecting bright sunshine only to find a raging blizzard. In the winter workers often arrive when it's dark, work in the basement all day, then leave when it's dark. There is no truth to the rumor, however, that the eyes of these subterraneous workers enlarge in the winter due to lack of sunlight.

Perceptions of life in a basement are almost uniformly negative. Literary references are to places such as dungeons, torture chambers, catacombs and tombs or areas described as cold, damp, dark and rat infested. This gives a false impression of a basement work environment. The basement work area in Building 50 is well lit and almost rat free.

Although the underground environment has been maligned in literature and is often perceived negatively, there are some enthusiastic individuals who actually seek it out daily to participate in a lunchtime exercise group.

The primary function of the Branch of Micrographics is to create the Cadastral Survey Records Microfiche System. This system combines the Cadastral Survey Field Notes and Survey Plats on microfiche (a sheet of film 4" x 6" containing rows of microimages) and creates a computer generated index to these records.

Since the underground of BLM provides such an important function, perhaps it's time to revise our thinking and begin to see these hard working people as hidden resources, or maybe even as the buried treasure of BLM.

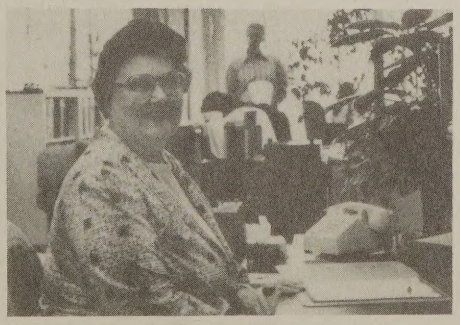
MEET GINNY

The Personnel Office has a new friendly face, Ginny Sweeney, who came to us with the Colorado State Office/SC consolidation.

Ginny works with the Special Recruitment Programs which include the handicapped, veterans, cooperative education, seasonal, volunteers, and stay-in-school programs. She is also Incentive Awards Coordinator for both SC and CSO. Talk about busy!

She enjoys her work because she believes in it. When asked what her favorite program is, she said the handicapped because it gives people an opportunity to utilize their skills. Also she has seen several success stories.

Ginny began her government career in 1946 at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. Later she left government service to raise her family. Her husband's military career took them all over the world, but they regarded Colorado as home and planned to retire here. Ginny returned to government work with the Department of Army in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1979, three years after the death of her husband, she decided to move back to Colorado.



Although she is eligible to retire, it is not in her immediate plans.

She misses her friends at the State Office, but says it is nice to make new friends here. It's good having you.

FEELING LEFT OUT?

Submit news and information for this newsletter to your rep . . .

D-100	Cathy Davis	6452
D-140	Sheri Bell (Editor)	6406
D-150	William Moody	7059
D-220	Kay Thomas	6531
D-250	Ruth Shrader	6519
D-430	Betty Riley	6350
D-470	Eric Janes	0147
D-510	Mike Kluherz	6620
D-530	Pat Holloway	6706
D-550	Bob Woerner	6637

ALMRS/GIS UPDATE

Last summer's amazing upset of the Service Center softball team by the ALMRS/GIS softball team left many SC employees bewildered. Who are these people and what do they do??

D-150, the ALMRS/GIS Project Office, now has over 50 BLM employees and utilizes a contract support team from Technicolor Government Services. This large group is the result of last spring's reorganization which combined the ALMRS staff with D-440.

The Project Office, headed by Brian Bernard, is responsible for developing the Bureau's future Automated Land and Mineral Record System. Nationwide implementation of the system is slated for 1992. This future system will

streamline procedures dealing with Public Land records, some of which date back to the post-Revolutionary War period. It will replace current Master Title Plats, historical indexes, and other documents with new manual and computer generated versions.

Ultimately, the system will serve as the basis for a Land Information System, which will integrate land records with resource and coordinate data. This will allow the Bureau professional to access resource information on a map grid noted with ownership and use data. Such a system will be of enormous benefit to public agencies and private enterprise as the Nation focuses more attention on developing its resources.

The next major milestone for the Project is the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued early this summer. Based on this RFP, by November of 1987 a contract will be awarded to write software for the future system.

Current procedures of processing lands and mineral cases must be carefully documented. About 15 workgroups are now involved in developing data flow diagrams, a technique which details work processes in a visual way. This technique will give the winning bidder a thorough understanding of the Bureau and how the future system should look.

D-150 is currently deciding which resource related requirements will be identified in this RFP. Many of these were generated in the recently completed Automated Resource Requirements Study.

In order to help make sense of the many technical and functional requirements for the future system, a prototype has been established. This involves a high-tech futuristic office setting in Building 50. The ALMRS prototype is housed in three circular modules. Composed of the latest HP and VAX office environment computers, the prototype is allowing functional and technical specialists to test their concepts about the future system in a laboratory setting. Users are being given a chance to create screens and format and manipulate actual data. Managers can view a demonstration of the potentials of the future system. Technicians are evaluating hardware, software and the Unix operating system.

These are some of the major efforts currently underway within D-150. And of course, they still play a great game of softball!!

TOAST FOR THE NEW YEAR

May we be happy and our enemies know it.

Disaster Recovery and Jack Headley

The intense storm hit virtually without warning and lasted for longer than anyone expected. For hours on end, wind-driven rain and hail battered the Wyoming community. When it was over, one-of-a-kind, irreplaceable historical documents--tract books and old GLO plats--were under two feet of water. If you had faced this situation, what would you have done?

Five or ten years ago, all of these documents might have been lost. However, modern techniques and processes--careful packing out of documents, freezing documents to stabilize them, freeze drying in large vacuum chambers, and removing soot using special sponges--resulted in these BLM records being saved. The great Cheyenne Flood caused little permanent change despite its fury.

The Bureau expert on disaster recovery and document preservation is Jack Headley. Jack works here at the Service Center in the Records Management section but is available Bureauwide 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to act as a consultant should misfortune strike.

However, disasters aren't always dramatic events such as floods, earthquakes, and fires. The everyday use of documents frequently leads to gradual deterioration. Papers are torn and tattered, book spines are broken while xeroxing, and acid residues in paper slowly destroy documents. Jack is concerned about this type of disaster as well.

For Jack, document preservation is as much a hobby as a job. Ask him about old photographs and you're likely to get a 30-minute show-and-tell, featuring Jack's personal collection of old Daguerreotypes, Talbotypes, Ambrotypes, and Ferrotypes (also called tintypes). He is a walking encyclopedia on adhesives, solvents, preservation formulas, deacidification of paper, and the physical and chemical characteristics of various pencil leads and pen inks.

"People could spare themselves a lot of grief," notes Jack, "if they know a few basic dos and don'ts of document preservation." For example, you should never repair a valuable document using adhesive-backed tape; sooner or later the adhesive deteriorates and stains the paper or separates from the tape backing. Also, an old document, say a family heirloom, should be deacidified (if necessary) before framing and hanging and be protected by ultraviolet-filtering plexiglass or polyester film to prevent fading.

"Some people with old photographs in their attic are sitting on a timebomb," claims Jack. Photographs from 1889 to 1939 used cellulose nitrate as an emulsion base and for the film itself. This chemical deteriorates into an unstable, explosive compound similar to gun cotton (or nitroglycerin). Such photographs should be copied and then disposed of--carefully.

The Service Center is fortunate to have a person on board with Jack's knowledge and interest. If you have any questions on disaster recovery or document* preservation, give Jack a call at 6-6641. He'll be happy to answer your questions . . . and show off his antique photo collection!

LIBRARY

Take advantage of the new display in our library that features recently purchased materials. An effort is being made to update the collection. Drop by and check it out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Road Design System Training		
	Jan 12-16	Bldg 50-exec
EEO Complaints Training For Managers		
	Jan 13-14	Bldg 50-West/Cent
GIS for Advanced Users		
	Jan 13-15	Bldg 50-East
EEO Counselor Update Training		
	Jan 14	Bldg 50-West/Cent
Health Unit: Health Day		
	Jan 14-16	Bldg 40
BLM EEO New Counselor Training		
	Jan 15-16	Bldg 50-West
Martin Luther King Day Observance		
	Jan 22	Bldg 50-West/Cent
DOI Meeting		
	Feb 9-12	Bldg 50-Exec
Black History Month Observance		
	Feb 11-12	Bldg 50-West/Cent
Effective English Class		
	Feb 23-24	Bldg 50-West/Cent
Wildlife ADP Users Group		
	Feb 23-27	Bldg 40
Orientation for New Employees		
	Feb 25-26	Bldg 50-West/Cent

GPO 852-551